

# SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

6/12/03

# MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

#### SB 364 (Garcia)

Senate Bill 364 would eliminate the minimum number of school days during a school year, in order to allow for the implementation of alternative schedules, including but not limited to a four-day school week. Instead of 180 days, the bill would require at least 1,098 hours of student instruction in each school year.

• The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 364 [RC 206: 28 yes, 10 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

# FINAL PASSAGE

#### SB 360 (BARCIA)

SB 360 increases the private agricultural pesticide applicator certification fee and the private registered applicator certification from \$10 to \$50. The fee has never been increased (since it was established in 1976). This will raise an additional \$130,000 per year.

Support: Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Neutral: MI Farm Bureau.

• SB 360 passed [RC 212: 36 yes, 2 no (GOP)].

#### **SB 361 (BARCIA)**

The bill would increase the license application fee and to create a license renewal fee for pet shops. SB 361 would require owners to pay an initial fee of \$200 and an annual renewal of \$100. The bill would impact the 179 pet shops in Michigan. The fee has not been changed since 1970 when the bill was enacted. The program pays for a sanitary annual inspection and follow-up on complaints. The bill would increase State revenues by an estimated \$17,900.

Support: Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Neutral: MI Farm Bureau.

• SB 361passed [RC 213: 36 yes, 2 no (GOP)].

#### **SB 386 (BERNERO)**

SB 386 would increase the fee paid by individuals engaged in buying, receiving, selling, transporting, or exchanging livestock. The fees have not been raised since 1957. The Senate made changes to the executive recommendation including decreasing the top category – livestock auction - from \$800 to \$400. Other decreases included collection point/buying station from \$500 to \$250 and horse auction from \$300 to \$150. The bill would increase State revenues by an estimated \$23,800.

Support: Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Neutral: MI Farm Bureau.

• SB 386 passed [RC 214: 36 yes, 2 no (GOP)].

## **SB 390 (BRATER)**

The bill would increase the horse riding stable licensing fee from \$25 for an application to \$100 and \$25 annual renewal. The fee has not been increased since the bill passed in 1974. The bill would increase State revenues by \$5,000.

• SB 390 passed [RC 215: 36 yes, 2 no (GOP)].

#### SB 462 (Garcia)

The bill would transfer the responsibility for the establishment and administration of the Motorcycle Safety Program from the State Board of Education to the Secretary of State.

• SB 462 passed [RC 210: 38 yes, 0 no].

#### SB 463 (Garcia)

The bill would increase the cost of an official State personal identification card from \$7 to \$10. The \$3 increase would generate approximately \$782,000 annually. This additional revenue is intended to begin funding the replacement of the Department of State's computer mainframe system.

• SB 463 passed [RC 211: 33 yes, 4 no (GOP)].

## **SB 480 (BRATER)**

SB 480 would increase the current fees paid by nurseries and would create a new Horticulture Fund and horticultural advisory committee. The bill would increase State revenues by an estimated \$140,000.

Support: Michigan Department of Agriculture, MI Farm Bureau.

• SB 480 passed [RC 216: 36 yes, 2 no].

## SB 485 (Garcia)

The bill would revise the interest rate on child support arrearages. Currently, twice a year, a surcharge calculated at an 8% annual rate is added to past due child support payments. Under the bill, the surcharge would

be calculated at a rate equal to the adjusted prime rate determined by the Department of Treasury. This rate is now at 3.25%. Thus, this would lower the surcharge on overdue child support payments. However, should the prime rate increase, in the future, above 8%, this could result in a higher surcharge.

• SB 485 passed [RC 208: 38 yes, 0 no].

#### **SB 516 (JACOBS)**

Senate Bill 516 prevents convicted sex offenders from adopting children. Currently, only convicted sex offenders whose victim was a minor are prohibited from adopting children. This bill expands the prohibition to include all convicted sex offenders.

• SB 516 passed [RC 207: 38 yes, 0 no].

#### SB 554 (Johnson)

The bill increases various fees related to drivers' licenses, vehicle registrations, etc. The bill would generate approximately \$66.2 million from fee increases. This funding would be used by the department of state to defray costs of administering registrations and licenses and by the department of treasury to defray costs of collecting motor fuel taxes.

• SB 554 passed [RC 218: 36 yes, 2 no].

# **HB 4270 (Ehardt)**

HB 4270 would establish a Medicaid Buy-In Program for working disabled adults who otherwise would not qualify for Medicaid coverage because of their income and/or assets exceed the program's financial eligibility limits. This bill is designed is to remove what is often perceived as a major obstacle to the disabled in getting and holding jobs: the loss of their Medicaid coverage.

Support: Dept. of Community Health, MiJob Coalition, MI Assn. of Centers for Independent Living, Blue Water Center for Independent Living, MI Statewide Independent Living Council, Assn. of Retired Persons representative.

• HB 4270 passed with IE [RC 209: 38 yes, 0 no].

# HB 4356 (Vander Veen)

House Bill 4356 would expand the scope of practice for dental hygienists and registered dental assistants under the "direct" or "general" supervision of a dentist.

Support: Department of Consumer and Industry Services, The Michigan Dental Association, Michigan Dental Association, Michigan Dental Association, Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association.

• HB 4356 passed with IE [RC 217: 38 yes, 0 no].